

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: ALL DC GOVERNMENT LURCHES TO-
WARD LAST HURDLES

REF: ROME 1916

1. WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC SPEED, THE SOCIALIST DIRECTORATE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TODAY (FEBRUARY 5) "TO ABSTAIN ON THE ALL-DC (MONOCOLORE) GOVERNMENT PROPOSED BY MORO." THE DECISION FOLLOWS MORO'S FORMAL PRESENTATION OF HIS PROGRAM TO THE OTHER THREE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES YESTERDAY, AND THE RELEASE OF THE PROGRAM TO THE PRESS YESTERDAY EVENING. (DETAILS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.) SOCIAL DEMOCRAT (PSDI) AND REPUBLICAN (PRI) DIRECTORATES MEETING THIS EVENING TO DECIDE THEIR POSITIONS. PSDI NOW EXPECTED TO OPT FOR A HESITANT "YES," WHILE PRI SEEMS PRESENTLY ORIENTED TOWARD ABSTENTION.

2. ONCE OTHER PARTIES HAVE PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES, DC WILL BE FACED AGAIN WITH A DIFFICULT DILEMMA: TO PRO-
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CEED OR NOT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WHICH THE SOCIALISTS,

OR WORSE, THE REPUBLICANS AS WELL, MERELY TOLERATE BY ABSTENTIONS. MORO REPORTEDLY TOLD MEMBER OF ONE PARTY DELEGATION THAT "THERE IS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM IN DC FOR A MONOCOLORE, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS DEMOLISHED BY ONE OR MORE ABSTENTIONS." A MONOCOLORE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DOES NOT SQUARELY MEET THE PRECONDITIONS THE DC ITSELF HAD SET FOR A "PRECONSTITUTED MAJORITY" FOR AN AGREED PROGRAM, AND SOME IN THE PARTY ARE ARGUING BEHIND SCENES THAT EARLY ELECTIONS ARE PREFERABLE TO ISOLATION AND EXPOSURE IN A WEAK MONOCOLORE, FACED WITH UNCERTAIN MAJORITIES IN PARLIAMENT. DC DIRECTORATE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 1100 LOCAL TIME TOMORROW WILL BE THE FORUM OF DECISION.

3. AGGRAVATING DILEMMA FOR DC IS RATIONALE GIVEN BY SOCIALISTS TO THEIR DECISION. DIRECTORATE DOCUMENT LAMENTS THAT DECISIVE POLITICAL TURN THE SOCIALISTS HOPED TO BRING ABOUT IN PROVOKING THE CRISIS HAD NOT COME ABOUT, BECAUSE OF THE DC'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT SOCIALIST PROPOSALS. NEVERTHELESS, IT VIRTUOUSLY GOES ON, THE PSI WILL VOTE ABSTENTION BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ASSURE THE COUNTRY A GOVERNMENT. A CLARIFYING PRESS STATEMENT BY DEMARTINO PROTEGE (LABRIOLA) ADDS THAT THE DC IS NOW "OBLIGED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT," BECAUSE, IF IT DOESN'T, IT WILL HAVE LOST BOTH ITS "POLITICAL HEGEMONY AND ITS SENSE OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST."

4. COMMENT: THUS DID THE PSI PASS THE POLITICAL FOOTBALL. PRESSING NEED FOR A GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE LIRA AND ECONOMY IS INDEED THE GREATEST, PERHAPS ONLY, GOOD REASON PUSHING THE DC TOWARD SUCH A WEAK GOVERNMENT FORMULA. DESPITE THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY, MANY IN DC AND OTHER PARTIES WOULD PREFER EARLY ELECTIONS RATHER THAN A WEAK GOVERNMENT.VOLPE

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